



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Valerie Ervin

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Councilmember Ervin Joins with Coalition of Nonprofit and Labor Organizations to Screen the HBO Film *American Winter* Showing the Human Toll of Poverty

*On Wednesday, May 29, at AFI Theatre in Silver Spring,
Maryland Lt. Governor Anthony Brown Among Those to
Attend Free Screening; Community Discussion
Will Focus on Advances in the War on Poverty*

ROCKVILLE, Md., May 28, 2013—Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin (District 5 – East County) will screen HBO’s documentary *American Winter* and convene a community conversation about poverty at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29**, at the American Film Institute’s (AFI) Silver Theatre in Silver Spring. More than 200 people—including Maryland Lt. Governor Anthony Brown—will attend the free event that will include some of the many foot soldiers in the “War on Poverty” who serve our community. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the community discussion will begin at 6:30 p.m.

HBO’s *American Winter* is a powerful documentary that follows the personal stories of families struggling in the aftermath of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. As the movie proclaims, “In the richest country on earth, millions of families have been left in the cold.”

“This film screening is an outgrowth of our community conversation, ‘Raise Your Voice to SNAP the Silence’ on poverty,” said Councilmember Ervin. “As a result of one of the worst economic downturns in decades, now more than ever, many of our relatives, friends and neighbors are suffering financial challenges. This film shows how easy it is

for families who are living paycheck to paycheck to end up in poverty and the tremendous impact it has on children.”

Councilmember Ervin continues her work on initiatives and long-term solutions to combat poverty and to assist working families. Some of these efforts include: championing the County’s Prevailing Wage and Displaced Worker laws; funding the Working Parents Assistance Program, which provides child care benefits for working families; funding the Working Families Income Supplement, which provides a local tax credit for those who qualify for the State’s Earned Income Credit; the implementation of a county-wide Food Recovery Network; and a county-wide farmers market Double Dollars Program to increase access to healthy foods for low-income residents.

Councilmember Ervin also is a proponent for creating job opportunities that pay a living wage and she supports efforts to increase the minimum wage. “It is essential that we continue to build momentum to push for new policies and funding that will end hunger, provide job opportunities that pay a living wage, promote affordable housing, access to health care and transit option for all residents,” she said.

Tickets are sold out but you can still add your name to the waiting list by going to <http://tinyurl.com/AmericanWinterAFI>. Attendees will receive a confirmation e-mail and tickets will be distributed at the registration table in the AFI Theatre lobby on the evening of the event. **Members of the press do not need to formally register and will be admitted at 6 p.m.**

Those attending the film are being asked to support the United Way of the National Capital Area’s 2013 Shoebox Project by donating personal care products and emergency preparedness supplies. The organization will be at the AFI Theatre collecting toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, socks and similar items that will be used to fill shoeboxes and are distributed to families in need. More information can be found at: <http://www.unitedwaynca.org/pages/shoebox-project1>.

“The goal of this event is not only to show a powerful film, but to continue our collaboration with nonprofit providers, labor organizations, activists, government leaders and residents to develop new initiatives to help us end poverty in our community and beyond,” said Councilmember Ervin.

The event is cosponsored by: A Wider Circle; CASA De Maryland; the Food Recovery Network; Gandhi Brigade; the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County; IMPACT Silver Spring; InterFaith Works; Jews United for Justice; Manna Food Center; Maryland Hunger Solutions; the Metro Washington Council AFL-CIO; the Mid-Atlantic Laborers' Cooperation Trust of LiUna; Montgomery County Young Democrats; Nourish Now; the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland; Progressive Maryland; Progressive Neighbors; Raise Maryland; SEIU Maryland and DC State Council; SEIU 1199; SEIU 32BJ; SEIU Local 500; and the United Way of the National Capital Area.

More information about the event can be found on its Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/566998766656800/>

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